

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

SAB-02 IO-13 /083 W

-----061159 181804Z /43

R 181349Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9595

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 06299

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PN

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL'S COMMENTS ON PANAMA AND SOUTH
AMERICA

1. DURING OUR TALK APRIL 14 ROEL TOLD ME THAT, ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO CARACAS FOR THE SELA MEETING AND THEN ON TO QUITO, HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE STRONG SENSE OF DISTASTE AND EVEN HELPLESSNESS WITH WHICH CARLOS ANDREZ PEREZ VIEWED THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES IN LIGHT OF PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. HE CITED PEREZ AS IN EFFECT SHAKING HIS HEAD OVER THE FACT THAT "ONE JUNIOR SENATOR FROM ARIZONA" COULD UNDO ALL THE WORK ON THE TREATIES AND PERHAPS EVEN CAUSE THEM TO BE REJECTED. I HAD ANTICIPATED THAT ROEL MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING IN HIS OWN RIGHT TO SAY ABOUT THE CANAL TREATIES, SPECIFICALLY THE DECONCINI AMENDMENT, BUT HE DID NOT OFFER HIS OWN OPINION; ONLY CITED PEREZ'S VIEWS.

2. IN A GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON, ROEL SAID HIS TRIP AND HIS CONTACTS HAD GIVEN HIM A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON SOUTH AMERICA AND ENABLED HIM TO SEE ITS PROBLEMS AT FIRST HAND. HE SAID, AFTER SEEING THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT, HE WAS GLAD THAT MEXICO WAS PART OF NORTH AMERICA AND HE FELT A LOT
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BETTER ABOUT MEXICO'S MANY PROBLEMS. AS TO THE SELA MEETING, HE THOUGHT THAT IN GENERAL NOT MUCH HAD RESULTED FROM IT. LUCEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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